



## ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR PHARMACY EDUCATION

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February 10, 2025

Dear Pharmacy Dean:

The ACPE Board of Directors met at the end of January, and I would like to share some items from the meeting that may be of interest to you.

### Standards 2025

As you are aware, ACPE Standards 2025 will go into effect on July 1, 2025. With the implementation of Standards 2025 in July 2025, the use of the current AACP Assessment and Accreditation Management System (AAMS) will be discontinued as the platform for self-studies. It will be replaced by the ACPE Pharmacy Accreditation Report Management System (PHARMS). More information about this tool was provided in the Spring 2024 edition of the “ACPE Update” ([www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/ACPE\\_Update\\_Spring2024\\_Final.pdf](http://www.acpe-accredit.org/pdf/ACPE_Update_Spring2024_Final.pdf)). Programs evaluated during spring 2025 will be reviewed against Standards 2016 using the AAMS platform.

As previously announced, all ACPE accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy are expected to be in compliance with Standards 2025 when these standards become effective, July 1, 2025. To assist ACPE in monitoring compliance with this expectation, each accredited program must respond to a brief survey regarding the program’s plans for compliance with selected aspects of Standards 2025. The original due date for submission of this survey was April 1, 2025. To give programs more time to complete the survey, the deadline has been extended to June 1, 2025. Findings will be made available to each program after the January 2026 ACPE Board of Directors meeting. Both the college or school's responses and the Board’s response will be shared with the site team assigned to the program’s next comprehensive on-site evaluation to verify implementation of the plans. As previously stated, programs with a comprehensive on-site evaluation during the fall 2025 cycle need not submit a readiness report but should demonstrate their compliance with Standards 2025 in their self-study and during their onsite evaluation in fall 2025.

### NAPLEX Passing Rate Data

ACPE staff have been reviewing program websites for the published NAPLEX pass rates that are required to be posted (Policy 8.4). Please be reminded that all programs are required **to post a link to the NAPLEX passing rate data on the NABP Website** in addition to the most recent year’s NAPLEX® results for first-time takers as reported on the NABP Website, on-time graduation rates and a measure of student achievement for the most recent graduating class as determined by the program.

Our audit revealed that 110 out of 141 schools failed to comply with this requirement. We are sending all programs this reminder with the expectation this matter will be corrected no later than April 1, 2025, to avoid an action by the Board at its June 2025 meeting.

As a reminder, in June 2024, the Board noted that they will begin to review trends in the overall number of first-time test takers failing the NAPLEX examination at each program. At last year’s June meeting, programs were flagged that had a high number of failures (defined as 30 or more first-time test takers not passing the exam) but still had an overall first-time passing rate above the two standard deviation threshold. This trigger could indicate potential problems regarding the quality of the professional degree program, the nature of which must be identified by the program. Programs are highly encouraged to conduct a root cause analysis to identify factors contributing to the observed number of first-time test takers not passing the examination.

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As a reminder, beginning in July 2025, with the release of Standards 2025, the Board has approved actions to be taken based on the number of times a program falls below the two-standard deviation (2SD) benchmark for NAPLEX scores.

The specifics of policy 11.6.1.a. are as follows:

Within any seven-year period:

- 1st year passing rate below 2SD: letter sent requiring root cause analysis for poor performance and action plan for improvement
- 2nd year passing rate below 2SD: focused on-site evaluation to explore program's compliance with accreditation standards
- 3rd year passing rate below 2SD: program requested to meet with ACPE Board of Directors
- 4th year passing rate below 2SD: program subject to probationary action
- 5th year passing rate below 2SD: program subject to withdrawal of accreditation

Corrective measures should be implemented to reduce the number of first-time test takers not passing the examination. In accordance with ACPE's Policy, the Board will continue to monitor the number of first-time test takers successfully passing the examination.

### Job Placement and Gainful Employment

Thank you to all programs for completing the Job Placement and Gainful Employment for the previous graduating class (i.e., Class of 2023). This request allows ACPE to meet a data-reporting requirement of the US Department of Education. As in the past, 100% of ACPE accredited Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy have provided this data. Below is a summary of the data for your information:

- One hundred and forty-two (142) programs responded (100% response rate) with 12,792 graduates from 141 programs.
- One (1) program did not have graduates for AY2023.
- Of the 12,792 graduates, 47.89% (AY 2022 = 48.33%, AY 2021 = 50.37%, AY 2020 = 47.72%; AY2019 = 52.02%) are employed within the profession of pharmacy and 33.06% (AY 2022 32.44%, AY 2021 = 28.91%, AY 2020 = 28.70%; AY 2019 = 27. 31%) are completing postgraduate education or residency training. Therefore, 80.95% are engaged in the profession.
- The majority of programs collected the data prior to graduation (56.0%).
- Data was collected primarily using an exit survey (71.6%) and/or an online survey (63.1%).

### Faculty Strength and Expertise

The Board is aware of recent national declines in applications to pharmacy programs which have contributed to declines in enrollment at numerous programs. The Board stresses the need to ensure resources, including faculty strength, are maintained to meet program needs and the expectations of ACPE's Accreditation Standards. The Board reiterates the expectations outlined in the Accreditation Standards including:

- Standard 10, Key Element 10.6: All courses in the curriculum are taught by individuals with academic credentials and expertise that are explicitly linked to their teaching responsibilities.
- Standard 18: The college or school has a cohort of faculty and staff with the qualifications and experience needed to effectively deliver and evaluate the professional degree program.

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- Standard 19: Faculty and staff have academic and professional credentials and expertise commensurate with their responsibilities to the professional program and their academic rank.

The Board reminds programs that failure to ensure adequate depth and breadth of the cohort of faculty may lead to instances where programs are out of compliance with ACPE's Accreditation Standards. The full spectrum of faculty expectations for didactic and experiential instruction, as well as scholarly research within the credentialed discipline, are considered in determining compliance with the appropriate standards.

Recent data indicate that the number of core faculty positions in pharmacy programs is decreasing while the use of adjunct faculty is increasing. It has been noted that the adjunct faculty generally are not integrated in the program, may not have input into curriculum decisions, may lack skills in student assessment and test preparation, do not participate in student advising, may not be available for on campus meetings with students, and are not consistently supported for participation in professional organizations among multiple other concerns.

To aid the Board in monitoring faculty cohorts including adjunct faculty at each program, **reporting on current faculty cohorts and expertise will be added to the annual monitoring policy beginning in July 2025**. More details will be shared regarding this requirement shortly after the June 2025 Board meeting.

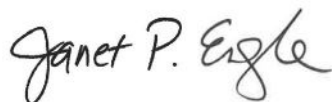
### Self-Study Workshop

ACPE will be offering its annual Self-Study Workshop on July 23-24, 2025, in our Chicago office. The dates are just after the conclusion of the AACP Annual Meeting which will also be held in Chicago near our office. The workshop will review the expectations for self-studies using Standards 2025, discuss the scoring "rubric" both Colleges/Schools and on-site evaluators use in their evaluations, and highlight necessary appendices and other documents that should be included in the report or made available to the on-site team. This session is intended to assist programs that have a comprehensive on-site evaluation during academic years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028, and priority will be given to registrants from those programs.

Seating is limited to 72 participants and will be reserved on a first come first serve basis, based on priority listed above and is limited to 3 participants per institution. More information on registration can be found here: <https://acpe-accredit.formstack.com/forms/72025sswshop>. The deadline to register is July 1, 2025. ACPE will also be hosting a reception for our site team evaluator volunteers during the AACP Annual Meeting in our office. More information about that event will be sent out at a later date to trained site team evaluators.

ACPE staff are available to answer any questions you have about these or any other items. You can reach the colleges/school team via email at: [csinfo@acpe-accredit.org](mailto:csinfo@acpe-accredit.org) or the CE team at: [ceinfo@acpe-accredit.org](mailto:ceinfo@acpe-accredit.org). In addition, feel free to reach out to Greg Boyer, Mary Kiersma, Dawn Zarembski, Jacob Gettig, Dimitra Travlos, Kimberly Catledge, Logan Murry, or me directly.

Sincerely yours,



Janet P. Engle, Pharm.D., Ph.D. (Hon), FAPhA, FCCP, FNAP  
Executive Director, Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)

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